

Notice of Allowability

Application No.
08/118,475

Applicant(s)
Afzali-Ardakani et al

Examiner
Greg Del Cotto

Group Art Unit
1751



All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course.

☒ This communication is responsive to Amend. filed 7/20/98

☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 87, 88, 91, 92 renumbered 1-4

☐ The drawings filed on _____ are acceptable.

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d).

☐ All ☐ Some* ☐ None of the CERTIFIED copies of the priority documents have been

☐ received.

☐ received in Application No. (Series Code/Serial Number) _____

☐ received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

*Certified copies not received: _____

☐ Acknowledgement is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e).

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR RESPONSE to comply with the requirements noted below is set to EXPIRE **THREE MONTHS** FROM THE "DATE MAILED" of this Office action. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. Extensions of time may be obtained under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a).

☐ Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL APPLICATION, PTO-152, which discloses that the oath or declaration is deficient. A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION IS REQUIRED.

☒ Applicant MUST submit NEW FORMAL DRAWINGS

☐ because the originally filed drawings were declared by applicant to be informal.

☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948, attached hereto or to Paper No. 4.

☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed on _____, which has been approved by the examiner.

☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment/Comment.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the reverse side of the drawings. The drawings should be filed as a separate paper with a transmittal letter addressed to the Official Draftsperson.

☐ Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Any response to this letter should include, in the upper right hand corner, the APPLICATION NUMBER (SERIES CODE/SERIAL NUMBER). If applicant has received a Notice of Allowance and Issue Fee Due, the ISSUE BATCH NUMBER and DATE of the NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE should also be included.

Attachment(s)

☐ Notice of References Cited, PTO-892

☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s), PTO-1449, Paper No(s). _____

☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review, PTO-948

☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application, PTO-152

☒ Interview Summary, PTO-413

☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment

☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material

☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance

Art Unit:

EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Thomas A. Beck on July 30, 1998.

2. The application has been amended as follows:

The Claims:

In claim 87, line 2, delete [89] and insert - 91 -.

In claim 88, line 2, delete [84] and insert - 92 -.

Cancel claims 61, 70 and 71.

Insert **Abstract** following the last claim:

Art Unit:

Abstract

This invention is concerned with an electrically conductive polymer blend composition which is a liquid compatible blend, comprising a doped product formed from blending a first solution comprising a Lewis base electrically conductive polymer in undoped form in a first organic solvent with a second solution comprising a Lewis acid polymer dopant in a second organic solvent, wherein said Lewis acid polymer dopant dopes said Lewis base electrically conductive polymer in undoped form to obtain said electrically conductive polymer blend, the resulting doped conductive product being soluble in the combination of said first and said second organic solvents and mixcible at the molecular level.

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REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Of the references of record, the most pertinent are Jen et al (US 5,068,060) or Sakai et al (US 4,933,106).

Sakai discloses an electrically conductive composition, and method of making such, comprising a conductive polymer and a polymer dopant, which can be the same as those presently claimed. See columns 2 and 3. For example, Sakai teaches polypyrrole and polythiophene as polymers and teaches polyacrylic acid, polysulfonic acids, acids containing carboxylic groups, polyphosphoric acid, etc. as dopants. The conductive polymer can be produced by electrochemical polymerization of the monomers or the derivatives thereof with or without the comonomers to deposit in the form of film on an electrode or by chemical polymerization. When the chemical polymerization is performed, the resulting powdery product can be electrochemically doped by first compression-molding the product to pelletize, providing a lead on the pellet and then subjecting the pellet to electrochemical doping. See column 3, lines 8-20.

However, Sakai et al does not teach method of making a liquid electrically conductive polymer blend composition which is formed from blending a solution comprising an electrically conducting polymer in undoped form with a second solution comprising a polymer dopant as recited by the instant claims.

Jen discloses an electrically conductive composition, and a method of making such, comprising a polymer (heterocyclic vinylene) and a polymer dopant. The dopant can be polyacrylic acid and those containing carboxylic acid or sulfonic acid groups. See abstract and

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column 14, lines 57-65. The electrically conductive forms of the polymers are formed by doping corresponding neutral forms of the polymer in solution or in solid state. See column 14, lines 21-30. The solvent type employed can vary widely, from polar to nonpolar. See column 15, lines 20-55. The proportion of polymer and solvent in the solution are not critical and can vary widely. The solution of this invention may include a third essential ingredient which is an electron dopant solute. The purpose of the dopant is to dope the polymer and render it electrically conductive in solution. See column 16, lines 58-69. The method of forming the solutions of this invention is not critical and can vary widely. One preferred method of forming the present solution containing the doped homopolymer or copolymer is to form the dopant solute from part of the solvent either in the presence of the polymer solute or followed by addition of polymer solute. See column 17, line 62 to column 18, line 40.

However, Jen does not teach the specific polymer dopants used in the conductive polymer blend composition as recited by the instant claims.

Additionally, Applicant has provided by way of a videotape, evidence showing that when polyaniline mixed with a solvent and polyamic acid mixed with a solvent are mixed together, a solution forms containing conductive polyaniline doped with polyamic acid.

None of the references of record, alone or in combination, teach or a method of preparing a liquid electrically conductive polymer blend composition which is a liquid compatible blend, comprising a doped product formed from blending a first solution comprising an electrically conductive polymer in undoped form and a second solution comprising a specific polymer dopant,

Art Unit:

the resulting conductive polymer blend being soluble in organic solvent as recited by the instant claims.

Accordingly, since the prior art fails to teach or suggest such a process as recited by the instant claims, the instant claims must be allowed.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gregory R. Del Cotto whose telephone number is (703) 308-2519.

GRD
August 10, 1998

Paul Lieberman
Supervisory Patent Examiner
Technology Center 1700

Interview Summary

Application No.
08/118,475

Applicant(s)
Afzali-Ardakani et al

Examiner
Greg Del Cotto

Group Art Unit
1751



All participants (applicant, applicant's representative, PTO personnel):

(1) Greg Del Cotto

(3) _____

(2) Thomas A. Beck

(4) _____

Date of Interview Jul 31, 1998

Type: ☒ Telephonic ☐ Personal (copy is given to ☐ applicant ☐ applicant's representative).

Exhibit shown or demonstration conducted: ☐ Yes ☒ No. If yes, brief description:

Agreement ☒ was reached. ☐ was not reached.

Claim(s) discussed: All

Identification of prior art discussed:

None

Description of the general nature of what was agreed to if an agreement was reached, or any other comments:

Applicant agreed to cancel claims 61, 70, 71.

(A fuller description, if necessary, and a copy of the amendments, if available, which the examiner agreed would render the claims allowable must be attached. Also, where no copy of the amendments which would render the claims allowable is available, a summary thereof must be attached.)

1. ☒ It is not necessary for applicant to provide a separate record of the substance of the interview.

Unless the paragraph above has been checked to indicate to the contrary, A FORMAL WRITTEN RESPONSE TO THE LAST OFFICE ACTION IS NOT WAIVED AND MUST INCLUDE THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW. (See MPEP Section 713.04). If a response to the last Office action has already been filed, APPLICANT IS GIVEN ONE MONTH FROM THIS INTERVIEW DATE TO FILE A STATEMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE OF THE INTERVIEW.

2. ☒ Since the Examiner's interview summary above (including any attachments) reflects a complete response to each of the objections, rejections and requirements that may be present in the last Office action, and since the claims are now allowable, this completed form is considered to fulfill the response requirements of the last Office action. Applicant is not relieved from providing a separate record of the interview unless box 1 above is also checked.

Examiner Note: You must sign and stamp this form unless it is an attachment to a signed Office action.

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PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231
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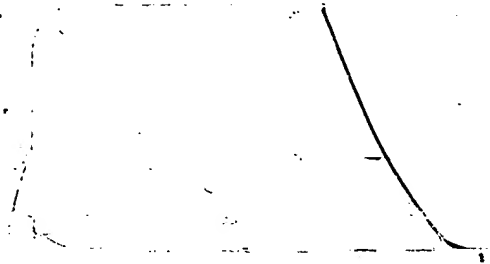
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